

What is claimed is:

1. A lighting ~~device~~ having a selectably changeable shape.
- 5 2. The lighting device according to claim 1, comprising:
a flexible lighting element; and
an adjustable shape-retaining element coupled to said flexible lighting
element.
- 10 3. The lighting device according to claim 2, wherein said adjustable
shape-retaining element is integrally formed with said flexible lighting
element.
- 15 4. The lighting device according to claim 3, wherein:
said flexible lighting element includes a plurality of tiny light bulbs
molded in a plastic tube; and
said adjustable shape-retaining element is molded in said plastic tube.
- 20 5. The lighting device according to claim 1, further comprising:
a translucent flexible covering coupled about said flexible lighting
element.
- 25 6. The lighting device according to claim 5, wherein said flexible
covering is transparent.
7. The lighting device according to claim 1, comprising a flexible lighting
element mounted in a translucent, flexible covering, said flexible covering
including an adjustable shape-~~retaining~~ element.

8. The lighting device according to claim 7, wherein said flexible covering is transparent.

5 9. The lighting device according to claim 2, wherein said flexible lighting element includes a rope light.

10. The lighting device according to claim 2, wherein said adjustable shape-retaining element is a metal wire.

10 11. The lighting device according to claim 7, wherein said adjustable shape-retaining element includes shapeable wires incorporated in at least part of said flexible covering.

15 12. A method for providing a selectably changeable shape lighting device, the method comprising coupling an adjustable shape-retaining element to a flexible lighting element.

20 13. The method according to claim 12, wherein said step of coupling includes integrally forming said adjustable shape-retaining element with said flexible lighting element.

14. The method according to claim 12, further comprising: mounting the flexible lighting element in a translucent flexible covering.

25 15. The method according to claim 13, further comprising: mounting the flexible lighting element in a translucent flexible covering.

30 16. The method according to claim 14, wherein said flexible covering is transparent.

17. The method according to claim 15, wherein said flexible covering is transparent.

5 18. The method according to claim 14, wherein the step of coupling includes incorporating an adjustable shape-retaining element in the flexible covering.

10 19. The method according to claim 15, wherein the step of coupling includes incorporating an adjustable shape-retaining element in the flexible covering.